

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2002

Legislative Document

No. 2009

H.P. 1506

House of Representatives, December 26, 2001

An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Specialty License Plates.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 19, 2001. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative McNEIL of Rockland.

Cosponsored by Senator O'GARA of Cumberland and

Representatives: COLLINS of Wells, COLWELL of Gardiner, FISHER of Brewer, PARADIS of Frenchville, Speaker SAXL of Portland, WHEELER of Bridgewater, Senators: DAGGETT of Kennebec, SAVAGE of Knox.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6451, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Lobster special registration plate fees. Revenues from lobster special registration plate fees credited to the Lobster Fund under Title 29-A, section 456-A may be used for research and education to support the development of the State's lobster industry. The commissioner shall consult on the expenditure of funds received from the lobster special registration plates with a research and development board composed of one member from each of the following organizations:

A. A statewide association representing the interests of persons who harvest lobster commercially;

B. A downeast association representing the interests of persons who harvest lobster commercially;

C. A southern Maine association representing the interests of persons who harvest lobster commercially;

D. A statewide import-export lobster dealers' association;

E. A statewide lobster pound owners' association;

F. A statewide lobster processors' corporation;

G. The Lobster Promotion Council under Title 12, section 6455;

H. The Department of Marine Resources, Lobster Advisory Council; and

I. A state member from an international lobster institute.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA c. 419-E is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 419-E

MAINE BLACK BEARS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

§11691. Maine Black Bears Scholarship Fund

The Maine Black Bears Scholarship Fund is created and established as a nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction and control of the Finance Authority of Maine. All revenues credited to this fund must be distributed as need-based scholarships for students attending the University of Maine. Scholarships distributed under this section may be awarded only to students

2 who meet the eligibility requirements for scholarships under the
3 student incentive scholarship program under chapter 419-A. The
4 Finance Authority of Maine shall award the scholarships and adopt
5 rules for determining eligibility, terms and conditions for the
6 scholarships. The fund may not be used for the costs of
7 administering the scholarships. Rules adopted pursuant to this
8 section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

10 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §§456-A and 456-B** is enacted to read:

12 **§456-A. Lobster registration plates**

14 **1. Lobster plates.** Subject to the requirements of section
15 468, the Secretary of State, upon receiving an application and
16 evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36,
17 section 1482, the annual motor vehicle registration fee required
18 by section 501 and the contribution provided for in subsection 2,
19 shall issue a registration certificate and a set of lobster
20 special registration plates to be used in lieu of regular
21 registration plates. These plates must bear identification
22 numbers and letters.

24 **2. Contribution to Lobster Fund.** In addition to the
25 regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed by law for the
26 particular class of vehicle registered, the initial contribution
27 for lobster plates is \$20, which must be deposited with the
28 Treasurer of State and credited as follows:

30 **A. Ten dollars to the Lobster Fund established in Title 12,**
31 **section 6451; and**

32 **B. Ten dollars to the Highway Fund.**

34 **3. Design.** The Secretary of State, in consultation with
35 the Lobster Promotion Council under Title 12, section 6455, shall
36 determine a design for the lobster special registration plates.
37 The Secretary of State shall issue upon request lobster plates
38 that are also vanity plates. Lobster plates are issued in
39 accordance with the provisions of this section and section 453.

42 **4. Renewal fee.** In addition to the regular motor vehicle
43 registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal
44 contribution for lobster special registration plates is \$20,
45 which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited
46 as follows:

48 **A. Fifteen dollars to the Lobster Fund established in Title**
49 **12, section 6451; and**

50

2 B. Five dollars to the Highway Fund.

4 5. Reimbursement for production and issuance costs. The
6 Treasurer of the State shall transfer annually from the Lobster
8 Fund established in Title 12, section 6451 to the Highway Fund
10 \$10 for each initial set of lobster registration plates issued
 and \$5 for each renewal of lobster registration plates. This
 transfer is to reimburse the Secretary of State for costs
 associated with production and issuance of plates.

12 6. Effective date. This section takes effect May 1, 2003.

14 **§456-B. Maine Black Bears registration plates**

16 1. Maine Black Bears plates. Subject to the requirements
18 of section 468, the Secretary of State, upon receiving an
20 application and evidence of payment of the excise tax required by
22 Title 36, section 1482, the annual motor vehicle registration fee
 required by section 501 and the contribution provided for in
 subsection 2, shall issue a registration certificate and a set of
 Maine Black Bears special registration plates to be used in lieu
 of regular registration plates. These plates must bear
 identification numbers and letters.

24 2. Contribution to Maine Black Bears Scholarship Fund. In
26 addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee prescribed
28 by law for the particular class of vehicle registered, the
30 initial contribution for Maine Black Bears plates is \$20, which
 must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and credited as
 follows:

32 A. Ten dollars to the Maine Black Bears Scholarship Fund
34 established in Title 20-A, section 11691; and

36 B. Ten dollars to the Highway Fund.

38 3. Design. The Secretary of State in consultation with the
40 alumni association of the University of Maine shall determine a
42 design for the Maine Black Bears special registration plates.
 The Secretary of State shall issue upon request Maine Black Bears
 plates that are also vanity plates. Maine Black Bears plates are
 issued in accordance with the provisions of this section and
 section 453.

44 4. Renewal fee. In addition to the regular motor vehicle
46 registration fee prescribed by law, the annual renewal
48 contribution for Maine Black Bears special registration plates is
 \$20, which must be deposited with the Treasurer of State and
 credited as follows:

2 A. Fifteen dollars to the Maine Black Bears Scholarship
3 Fund established in Title 20-A, section 11691; and

4 B. Five dollars to the Highway Fund.

5 5. Reimbursement for production and issuance costs. The
6 Treasurer of the State shall transfer annually from the Maine
7 Black Bears Scholarship Fund established in Title 20-A, section
8 11691 to the Highway Fund \$10 for each initial set of Maine Black
9 Bears registration plates issued and \$5 for each renewal of Maine
10 Black Bears registration plates. This transfer is to reimburse
11 the Secretary of State for costs associated with production and
12 issuance of plates.

13 6. Effective date. This section takes effect November 1,
14 2003.

15 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §468,** as enacted by PL 1997, c. 776, §12,
16 is amended to read:

17 **§468. Specialty plate**

18 ~~Beginning July 1, 1999, the~~ The Secretary of State may not
19 issue a specialty license plate unless the specialty license
20 plate is authorized by the Legislature. The Secretary of State
21 shall administer a specialty license plate in accordance with the
22 following provisions.

23 **1. Sponsor.** A person must register with the Secretary of
24 State as the sponsor of a specialty license plate.

25 **2. Names, signatures and payment.** The Secretary of State
26 may not manufacture an authorized specialty plate unless the
27 sponsor pays in advance for the manufacture of at least 2,000
28 pairs of the specialty plate and provides a list with 2,000
29 names, signatures and current plate numbers of supporters who
30 intend to purchase the specialty license plate. A payment of
31 \$40,000 for 2,000 pairs of plates at \$20 per pair must be
32 deposited in the Specialty License Plate Fund established under
33 section 469. The Secretary of State shall provide one \$20 credit
34 to purchase a pair of specialty license plates for each name and
35 signature provided.

36 **3. Fee.** The Secretary of State shall establish a fee for
37 each pair of an authorized specialty plate of at least \$10 per
38 pair ~~in addition to a registration fee to cover the cost of~~
39 ~~manufacturing and producing a specialty plate~~ \$20. The fee must
40 ~~be deposited in the Specialty License Plate Fund established~~
41 ~~under section 469.~~

2 **4. Minimum number manufactured.** The Secretary of State
shall manufacture a minimum of 2,000 specialty license plates for
4 each specialty plate authorized under this section.

6 **5. Design approval.** A sponsor must submit a proposed
design for a specialty license plate for approval or modification
8 by the Secretary of State. The joint standing committee of the
Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall
10 review the final design for a specialty license plate prior to
manufacture of the plate.

12 **6. Duplicate plates.** The Secretary of State shall issue a
14 specialty license plate in a 3-number and 3-letter combination
sequence. Vanity plates may not duplicate vanity plates issued
16 in another class of plate.

18 **7. Deadline for Secretary of State approval.** The sponsor
must submit to the Secretary of State the names, signatures,
20 payment and proposed design for the specialty license plate by
September 1st. If the design is approved pursuant to subsection
22 5, the Secretary of State shall submit proposed legislation
seeking authorization of the specialty license plate to the
24 following regular session of the Legislature.

26 **8. Weight limit.** A specialty license plate may be issued
for an automobile or pickup truck that does not exceed 6,000
28 pounds.

30 **Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §469, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1997, c. 776,
§12, is amended to read:

32 **2. Purpose.** All money credited to the Specialty License
34 Plate Fund must be used to cover the cost of manufacturing and
producing a specialty plate authorized pursuant to section 468.
36 ~~Fees collected for the manufacture and production of a specialty~~
~~license plate may only be used to cover the cost of manufacturing~~
38 ~~and producing that specialty plate.~~

40 **Sec. 6. Effective date.** That section of this Act that enacts
the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6451, subsection 9
42 takes effect May 1, 2003. That section of this Act that enacts
Title 20-A, section 11691 takes effect November 1, 2003.

46 SUMMARY

48 This bill would amend the laws governing specialty license
plates to require the sponsor of specialty plates to provide a

- 2 minimum number of signatures of support and to tighten the requirement regarding payment in advance of the manufacture of the specialty plate.